IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add before the first paragraph: "This application is the US National Stage under 35 USC §371 of PCT/NO03/00401 filed 1 December 2003".

Please amend the specification by inserting the headings as shown:

At page 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a marine vessel, a layered structure for use in a marine vessel, a layered structure module, an element for obtaining a layered structure module, methods for producing the layered structure, and a method for improving the strength and carrying capacity of existing stiffened plate structures, corrugated structures and structures in general in marine vessels.

At page 4:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The main purpose for the present invention is to achieve a new way for constructing the whole or part of a marine vessel with a layered structure, a layered structure suitable for use in vessels or other structural constructions, and a method to produce such composite structures, which is competitive with traditional vessel design

At page 13:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the further description the invention will be explained with detailed examples and with reference to the accompanying drawings where;

At page 14:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Fig. 1 and fig. 2 shows a vessel 1 where parts of the vessel 1 are constructed with a layered structure 2 in accordance with the invention. Part of the hull 6, parts of the deck 20 and some hatches 21 are removed to show the layered structure 2 used in the hull 6, the bulkheads 7, the wing tanks 9, and the hopper tanks 8. The hull 6 and the bulkheads 7 of the vessel 1 are designed with a layered structure 2 comprising two metal sheets 3 and a intervening concrete layer 4. One side of the wing tanks 9 and the hopper tanks 8 are design with a metal plate. It is to be noted that wing tanks and hopper tanks may be required for functional reasons, but are not necessary as a structural component of ships designed according to the invention.

Please further amend the last paragraph on page 5, line 32, continuing to page 6, line 9 as follows:

The term ~~,A~~ "marine vessel" as used herein and in the claims should be understood to encompass ~~may be~~ any type and size of ships, for instance a bulk carrier, a tanker or a container ship or a barge or other types of boats. A marine vessel may also be a semi-submersible platform with or without propulsion devises, other seagoing structures or large floating, stationary structures. The marine vessel may be built totally with a layered structure in accordance with the invention or parts of the vessel may comprise a layered structure, for instance may the hull and bulkheads comprise a layered structure but the hopper tanks and the wing tanks may be formed with steel plates connected to the layered structure hull and bulkhead. Another possibility might be to have just the outer hull with a layered structure, or only parts of the hull with a layered structure like the parts around the engine room. The layered structure comprises two metal sheets with a concrete layer in between. The concrete in the concrete layer may be denoted as an ultra lightweight concrete (ULWC) when it has density less than 1200 kg/m^3 which is half of that of normal concrete

which typically has a weight of about 2300 to 2500 kg/m^3. The concrete layer in the layered structure is, when dimensioning the layered structure, assumed not to be able carry significant tension forces, and to transfer all the perpendicular pressure forces in the layered structure.

Please amend the final paragraph on page 12 as follows:

The invention also includes a layered structure module for use in for instance a vessel such as a ship, a floating platform or similar or other structural constructions. The layered structure module is preferably ~~in accordance with the layered structure in claims 2-12, and~~ ~~is~~ constructed of at least two smaller elements with a thickness mainly equal to the modules thickness, and that the elements in addition may include connectors or extended web connectors between the two metal sheets. The smaller elements may have a length mainly equal to the modules length, and a width mainly equal to a part of the modules other length perpendicular to the first. To form a whole or a part of a vessel several modules which may have different or similar form may be put together. Some modules may first be assembled together, which modules thereafter are connected to form modules of another level which again are attached together with other combinations of modules to form another level of modules.